

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

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TOPIC Military Information from Dessau-Rosslau

EVALUATION see below

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DATE OF CONTENT 6 to 12 April 1952

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 1 May 1952

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

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1. On 11 April 1952, the cantonment in Gross Kuehnau in Dessau-Rosslau (M 52/E 17) was vacated. Only a guard detail quartered in one of the low buildings remained. Nine JS tanks and 5 trucks loaded with boxes and billeting equipment were still parked in front of the garages in the early morning. Imprints of wheel and track-laying vehicles led from the cantonment to the Dessau freight station. A farmer living near the cantonment stated that the unit was loaded at the Dessau freight station during the nights of 8, 9 and 10 April. He further said that he sometimes entered the cantonment and estimated the guard unit that remained there at about 100 men.

2. A railroadman stated that the troops from the barracks installation, Rosslau, were moving out of the installation toward Magdeburg (M 51/D 69) on 11 April. In the morning of 12 April, source observed that tanks and vehicles which had previously been parked in the open and in sheds were no longer there and that AT guns and trucks were entrained and 20 boxcars were loaded at the loading ramp in the billeting area.

3. On about 6 and 7 April, engineer troops constructed a 10-meter stretch of an emergency bridge on the southern bank of the Elbe River, opposite the Rosslau water training site. They used four pontoons and several pneumatic boats. Source believed that the pontoons used were former German type-A pontoons, i.e., 4-meter long pontoon sections. The 10-meter stretch was dismantled on 7 April.

4. On 10 April, two trains with materiel passed through Rosslau and proceeded toward Magdeburg. The first train carried about 22 tanks and about 8 trucks and the second train field howitzers, trucks and field kitchens on about 30 cars. A train passing through the Rosslau railroad station toward Magdeburg on 12 April carried 12 canvas-covered tanks, 3 armored scout cars with three axles. Between 9 and 12 April, several groups, each of 100 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen at the Rosslau railroad station boarding the regular train toward Magdeburg. They occupied only four of the eight reserved cars.

5. On 6 and 8 April, 120 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia were engaged in firing practice with small arms in the

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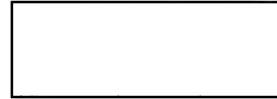
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training area near Camp Rosslau.

6. On 9 April, 17 T-34/85 tanks were noticed in the cantonment of Gross Kuehnau. Numerous imprints of caterpillar tracks led from the cantonment toward the freight station.

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\* [REDACTED] Comment. The report confirms the departure from the barracks installation in Rosslau and the cantonment at Gross Kuehnau of most of the components of the 7th Gds Tank Div. To date, several reports have mentioned the arrival at Letzling Heath of 13 shipments of the division.

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